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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in acccrdance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to take appropriate action to enable the group of experts designated by the United Nations in cooperation with the OAU to meet during 1993, in order to draw up a draft treaty or convention on the denuclearization of Africa. The Secretariat has been informed that the sponsors of the resolution intend to introduce an oral revision to the draft resolution to specify that this meeting should be held at Harare. The Assembly would further request the Secretary-General to submit the report of the group of experts to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

2. The above request is related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as proposed for revision. 1/

Related activities were initially programmed and approved under subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, of section 5, Disarmament, of the programme budget for 1991-1992, 2/ responsibility for which was transferred to the Department of Political Affairs, following the restructuring of the Secretariat. A proposal for the transfer of related resources to section 37, Department of Political Affairs, has been submitted to the General Assembly in the Secretary-General's revised estimates. 3/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would organize a five-day meeting in 1993, for the group of 11 experts. In endorsing recommendation 4 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 4/ the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 reaffirmed the existing principle that United Nations bodies should meet at their respective established headquarters. In the present case, therefore, the meeting should normally have been convened at Addis Ababa, as the regional headquarters of the United Nations and the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity. Since the sponsors of the resolution intend to introduce an oral revision to have the meeting held at Harare, an exception to this principle would be required.

4. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the United Nations would not be requested to provide conference services, but that the regular budget of the United Nations would bear all costs related to the convening of the meeting, namely, conference-servicing, travel and daily subsistence for the experts, and appropriate substantive support services to the group of experts.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1992-1993

5. The submission of the report to the General Assembly called for by the draft resolution would fall under activity 2 (a), Parliamentary documentation, of subprogramme 1 of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. With regard to the substantive servicing of the group of experts, it would be necessary to replace the citation under activity 2 (b) Substantive services of subprogramme 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as modified by A/C.5/46/42 by the following:

> "(v) Group of Experts designated in 1991 by the United Nations in cooperation with OAU within the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/56 A (one session each in 1992 and 1993)."

E. Additional requirements at full cost

6. The requirements to undertake the activities described in paragraphs 3 and 4 above are as follows:

		$
(a)	Conference-servicing costs	
(i)	Rental of conference room	5 800
(ii)	Interpretation (E,F)	6 000
(iii)	Rental of office equipment	800
(iv)	Translation (E, F)	1 000
	Sub-total (a)	13 600
(b)	Substantive costs	
(i)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 11 experts	45 700
(ii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 2 staff members 1 Professional and 1 General Service - from the Office for Disarmament Affairs	13 000
	Subtotal (b)	58 700
	Grand total, (a) and (b)	72 300

F. Potential for absorption

7. No provision has been made in the programme budget for 1992-1993 to undertake the activities enumerated in paragraphs 3 and 4 above. However, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Department of Political Affairs would make use of its staff resources to provide the necessary substantive support services to the meeting. Otherwise, it is not anticipated that the cost of $72,300 referred to above could be absorbed from within the provision under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

G. Indication of additional requirements

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14, as orally revised, it is estimated that additional requirements of $72,300 would arise under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

H. Contingency fund

9. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

10. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Summary

11. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14, as orally revised, it is estimated that additional appropriations of $72,300 would be required under section 37 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Assembly would also need to approve an exception to the principle that United Nations bodies should meet at their respective established headquarters.

Notes

1/ A/47/6 (Prog.7) and E/AC.51/L.Add.13.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1, vol. I, as modified by A/C.5/46/42.

3/ A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), chap. II.A.